



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



The Third Sunday after Epiphany

22nd of January, 2023

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, a faithful Christian presence for over 160 years. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion.

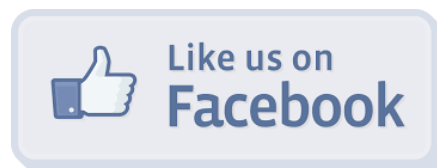
This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting Churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church.

If you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy.

Services of Worship during January Sundays at 10am, only



@stjohnstoorak



Cover Image

Giovanni di Matteo, *Calling of Sts. Peter and Andrew* 1470,
Tempera with oil and gold on panel, 29 x 33 cm,
The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

THE INVOCATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

HYMN 'Lord of earth and all creation'

1 Lord of earth and all cre - a - tion, let your
love pos - sess our land: wealth, and free - dom,
far ho - ri - zons, moun - tain, for - est, shi - ning sand: may we
share, in faith and friend - ship, gifts un-meas-ured from your hand.

1. Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far
horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, in faith and
friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your
hand.
2. People of the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country
first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or
cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new
living,

hope for which our children
thirst.

3. Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower;
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land
Australia:
in your will her peace and power.

Michael Rayner Thwaites 1915- and Honor
Mary Thwaites 1914-93
Words © M. R. Thwaites Music ©
R. Boughen

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *said together*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations. Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith. **Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION *Here absolution is pronounced by the celebrant*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, hea - ven-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the hearts that serve you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CHILDREN'S ADDRESS *any children present are invited to the chancel step*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 9.1-4 *Read by Michael Kirwan*

¹But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM Psalm 27.1-10 *said together*

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?:
the Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
come upon me to devour me:
they shall stumble and fall.
- ³ If an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid:
and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.
- ⁴ One thing I have asked from the Lord,
which I will require:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

- ⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord:
and to seek his will in his temple.
- ⁶ For he will hide me under his shelter
in the day of trouble:
and conceal me in the shadow of his tent,
and set me high upon a rock.
- ⁷ And now he will lift up my head:
above my enemies round about me.
- ⁸ And I will offer sacrifices in his sanctuary
with exultation:
I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- ⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry:
have mercy upon me and answer me.
- ¹⁰ My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face':
your face, Lord, I will seek.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

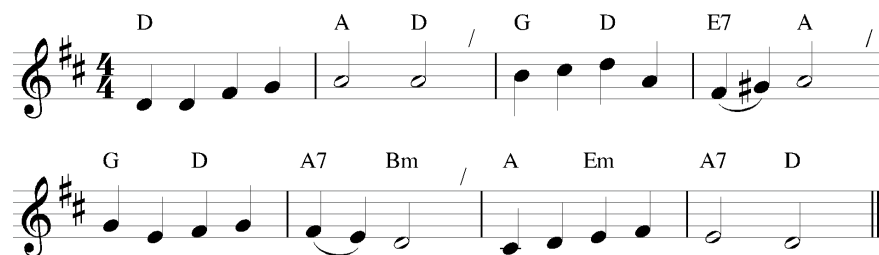
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 *Read by Barbara Brown*

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 'Lord, your word abiding'



1. Lord, your word abiding,
and our footsteps guiding,
gives us joy for ever,
binds us all together.
2. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by your word imparted
to the simple-hearted?
3. Word of mercy, giving
nourishment for living:
word of life, supplying
comfort for the dying.
4. O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear you,
evermore be near you.

Henry Williams Baker 1821-77 alt.

please stand and turn and face the Gospel as it is read

THE GOSPEL Matthew 4.12-25

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.'

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake — for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers,

James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON The Vicar, The Revd Dr Peter French

THE ANTHEM 'Ich folge dir' [from *St. John Passion*] J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Text: 'I follow you likewise with joyful steps and do not leave you; my life, my light.
Bring me on my way and do not cease to pull, push and urge me on.'

THE NICENE CREED *said together, standing*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *led by Keith Beecher*

The Prayers end with the following

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PARISH NOTICES *given by The Vicar*

THE GREETING OF PEACE *standing*

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

All share with each other a 'COVIDsafe' sign of peace

OFFERTORY *A monetary collection for the life and ministry of St. John's is taken here. You may give by contributing to the brass collection plate, or at the paypoint at the rear of the church*

HYMN 'When wide sky rolls down'



1. Where wide sky rolls down and
touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass
of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole
tell
their joy in the One who made
everything well.

2. Where rain-forest calm meets
reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush
and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and
tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving
Word.

3. Where red gum and creek cross
hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to
welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm,
mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed
them for praise.

4. Now, people of faith, come
gather around
with songs to be shared, for
blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your
culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the
Giver of grace.

Elizabeth J. Smith 1956-
Words © E. J. Smith

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING THE OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we
have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and
for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues, concluding with

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of
heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you
and singing:

Sanctus 2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Benedictus

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est.

From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

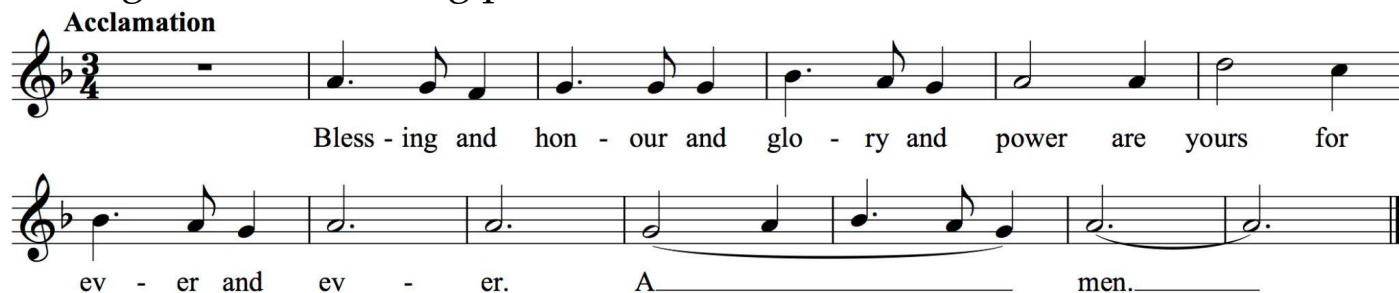
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer continues until the following

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith



The Great Thanksgiving Prayer ends with the following

... songs of never ending praise. or ... now and for ever.



From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

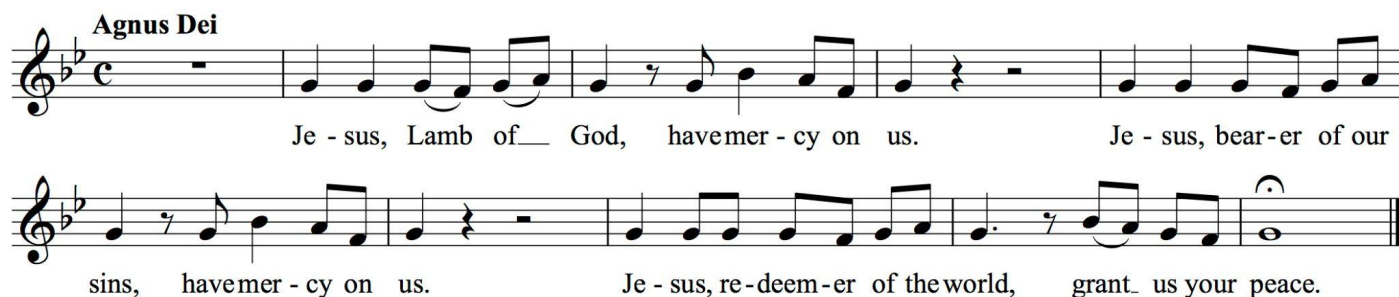
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

AGNUS DEI



From Parish Eucharist - Michael Dudman (1938-1994)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *kneeling or standing*

**This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are
those who are called to his supper. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion is available as consecrated bread which may be intincted (dipped) in the chalice of consecrated wine. If you would prefer a blessing, please come forward and indicate this by keeping your arms behind your back.

THE ANTHEM *Domine Deus* [Gloria]

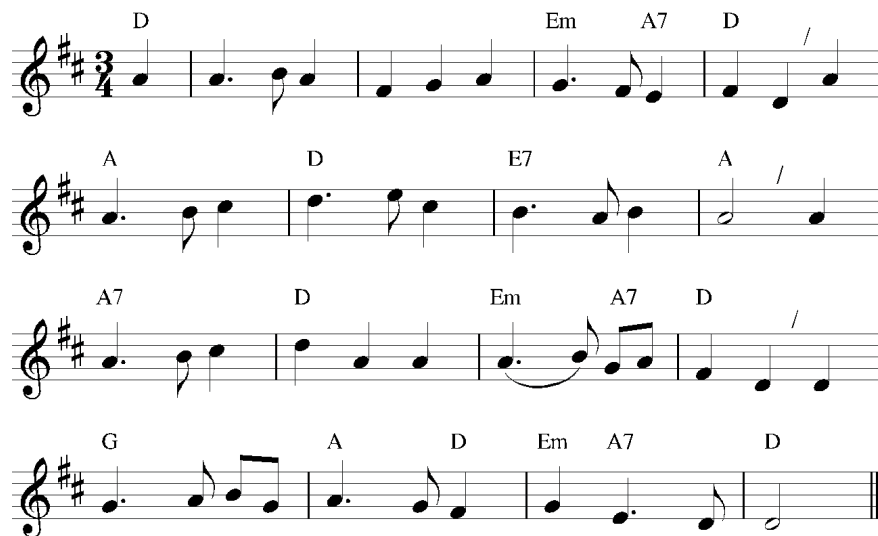
Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *which ends with*

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

HYMN 'Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living'



1. Sing praise and thanksgiving, let all creatures living
now worship their maker with gladness and song;
all glory and honour we come to him bringing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
2. Our lives of his making he brings to their waking;
in darkness he held us in his gracious care,
now into the light we are called from our sleeping:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!
3. Lord, frame our desiring to do your requiring,
that unto your glory be all that we do;
and where we have faltered, give strength and give healing:
O praise to the Almighty, sing praise to our God!

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE, *Allegro, from* Concerto in A, BWV 593

J. S. Bach

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia* 1995. Broughton Books by E.J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.
With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. Used with permission. C.C.L.I Licence number 669476.
All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

NOTICES

Sunday 8am & 10am and Wednesday 7pm Services recommence from February 5
Please note, there will be only the 10am Sunday service until then.

Help those who are hungry through our 'Food for Friends' Program

Money raised through direct donations will be spent during the year on food supplies for a variety of agencies including the Richmond Churches Food Group, The Sunday Suppers Program at St. Silas, Albert Park, and The Little St. Kilda Mission, all providing food and meals to those who need them most. So, please consider donating to The Toorak Ecumenical Fund - CBA Toorak BSB 063177 A/C 10026147. Please mark it 'F for F.' (No receipts will be issued.) Please see the flyer in the church foyer for further information. Thank you for your support!

Our Vicar Peter on Long Service Leave

From February 5, 2023 until April 15, 2023, our Vicar Peter will be away on Long Service Leave. On February 2, Peter will celebrate 24 years since his ordination as a deacon and the start of his service to the Anglican Church. For 14 years he has not taken such leave and has therefore accrued 14 weeks of leave. With our approval and that of our Bishop, Peter will be away for 8 weeks of long service leave, alongwith 2 weeks of his annual leave, for time away from the parish for rest and rejuvenation. He will be uncontactable during this period and unavailable for any kind of parish duties. Our Assistant Priest, The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch, will be locum priest during this time, meaning that she shall be running the church in his absence. *Amanda Bagot and Anthony Mannering, Churchwardens*

Sunday School Resumes, February 5

Our Sunday School program resumes from 5 February 2023. For enquiries please contact the Parish Office on 9826 1434, or at enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org.

An Introduction to Matthew's Gospel, Sunday 19 February, 11.30am

All are warmly invited to a short seminar on The Gospel of Matthew, led by The Rev'd Dr Wendy Crouch following the 10am service and morning tea on Sunday February 19. Commencing at 11.30, and concluding by 12.30, this brief presentation will focus on themes in Matthew that will help us to understand the gospel as not just a story 'back then' but about our story now, and about a future for the church and the world. We are in 'Year A' of our three-year Sunday reading cycle, so the majority of our Sunday gospel readings throughout this year will be from Matthew's gospel. So come and hear about ways in which we can engage with this dramatic narrative about Jesus that is shot through with faith's vision.

Covid Safety Measures and Zoom Link and Communion Instructions

It is recommended that we continue to wear masks, to physically distance and to avoid physical contact with each other. Our regular 10am Sunday service is streamed via Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81091944551?pwd=VGp0QlZLMdhhcXdxYXptUDFES2J5dz09> Meeting ID: 810 9194 4551 Passcode: 789184

Contribute to Worship Services

All our ministries at St John's are supported by our volunteers. The rosters for January and February are [here](#). Please contact the office to help out.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to the January Prayer Diary is [here](#).

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Assistant Curate Lydia has Monday and Vicar Peter has Friday. Wendy works Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday only. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

ART COMMENTARY

This painting shows Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, urging two fishermen, the brothers Peter and Andrew, to become his disciples. Jesus leans forward to help Peter out of the boat, while Andrew casts his net aside, symbolically leaving his old life behind. This panel was once part of a predella, a sequence of small paintings situated beneath the main scenes of an altarpiece.

Support St. John's

Your support of St. John's is greatly appreciated. Donations can be made directly to: St. John's Anglican Church General Account, Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia. Account Name is St. John's Anglican Church. BSB is 033 086. Account No. is 871931. For international transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Christ Church Brunswick (Lindsay Urwin OGS, Russell Goulbourne); The Diocese of Wangaratta (Bp Clarence Bester, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of La Trobe (Gavin Ward); The Church of North India (United).

For those who lead us in Government: His Majesty King Charles III; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Michelle Ananda-Rajah; Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

For The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Gwen; Bruce Fordham; Sam Shepherd; Margaret and David Jones; Nichole Garnaut; and Joanna.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Rosie Creswell; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Anne Myers; Elizabeth Johnson; and, Claire Beecher.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Baillieu Myer (2022); Richard Simpson (2018); Reeves Vanderkelen (2019); Felicity Holding (2019); Jonathan Sharrock (2019); Julia Jones (2020); Penny Stott (2021); Brian Blythe (2022); Caroline Searby (2014).

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

This commentary presents one interpretation; others may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings. Text from New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV).

Isaiah 9:1-4

Isaiah says that a time will come ("the latter time") when God "will make glorious", show his power, to three northern regions of Israel made provinces of Assyria after the conquest of 733 BC: "the way of the sea" (Dor), "the land beyond the Jordan" (Gilead) and "Galilee" (Megiddo). (Galilee was known as multi-ethnic, "nations"). The current "anguish" inflicted by God through the Assyrian king upon the Israelites there (the tribes of "Zebulun" and "Naphtali"), will end. The tense of the verbs is mixed perfect and future, so when the "latter time" will be is hard to tell; perhaps it is in the distant future. (In biblical times, northern Israel never regained its freedom.)

As "on the day of Midian" (v. 4), when Gideon led the people of Israel to defeat a vastly superior force of Midianites with God's help, the people will be freed from oppression. ("Yoke", "bar" and "rod" are symbols of oppression.) But this conquest will be a holy war; in such a battle, none of the plunder can be kept ("shall be burned", v. 5), for it is God's. God will increase the numbers of the Israelites (*multiply the nation*, v. 3). They will rejoice before God ("you") as they do in times of plentiful harvest and of victory in battle ("when dividing plunder"). Vv. 6-7 are familiar to us from Christmas: "For a child has been born to us ...". Originally written to prophesy the continuance of the house of David, we also see these words as foretelling Jesus' birth.

Psalms 27:1,4-9

The psalmist expresses his confidence in God. "Light" is linked with "life". When "evildoers" (v. 2) try to destroy him ("devour my flesh"), they fail to do so. Even if they are many ("army", v. 3), he is sure that they will fail. He has asked of God that he may worship in the Temple ("live", v. 4) for as long as he lives, see the "beauty" of what God does, to know more of God; these things he intends to do. God's "tent" (v. 5) is the Temple, the psalmist's refuge; there God makes him unreachable by his ungodly foes (v. 6). So he will praise God. He pursues his request in vv. 7-12. May God allow himself to be seen (v. 9); in the past he has seemed hidden from Israel. May God care for him (v. 10). May God guide him in godly ways so that he may not become subject to the "will" (v. 12) of his foes who tell lies about him ("false witnesses", v. 12). V. 13 is the conclusion: he trusts that he will see the effects of God's caring, throughout his life. Possibly v.14 is a later addition: God does not act according to our schedule.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

In this reading, we learn of divisions in the church there. Paul appeals for commonality in their thinking about the faith and in their vision for the church. He has heard from "Chloe's people" (v. 11), who are either (1) members of, and slaves in, her household, or (2) the church that meets in her home, or (3) those who look to

her as leader, – that their factiousness has reached the level of recrimination (“quarrels”). We do not know what the three (or four) factions believed; perhaps those who “belong to Christ” (v. 12) give allegiance to him without the mediation (and the participation) of the church. (“Cephas” is Peter.)

V. 13 presents three rhetorical questions, to which Paul expects a negative answer (as the Greek shows). The sarcasm is biting! (By “Christ” he means the worldwide church.) To put loyalty to a leader above fidelity to Christ is unacceptable. While Paul probably baptised the first converts in Corinth (“Crispus”, v. 14, “Gaius” and “the household of Stephanas”, v. 16), his prime mission is to teach the faith (v. 17). Claims of *belonging to Paul* are unfounded. All are baptised in the name of Christ, so all “belong” (v. 12) to him. Paul teaches straight-forwardly, relying on the message, the “power” (v. 17) of the “cross of Christ” (Jesus’ sacrificial death) to convince people – not “eloquent wisdom”, appealing to reason with clever arguments and rhetorical prowess. To those who hear the message and do not accept it and trust in it, it is “foolishness” (v. 18) about a man who died an ignominious death; they “are perishing” both now and when Christ comes again. But to the faithful (“to us who are being saved”) it speaks to how powerful God is.

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus has been tempted by the devil in the wilderness. His responses show his complete dedication to the will and purpose of God. He has refused to use his divine power to his own human ends. Now he *withdraws* from “Nazareth” (v. 13) to “Capernaum”, so he can begin his mission safe from government interference. (John the Baptist has been arrested. Sepphoris, near Nazareth, was a Roman administrative centre. If the authorities seek to arrest him, he can escape more easily from Capernaum – by boat – than from Nazareth.) Matthew is keen to show Jesus as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies: he quotes Isaiah in condensed form (vv. 15-16) to show that Jesus is the future ideal king, the Messiah. (In Isaiah, the “sea” is the Mediterranean; here it is the Sea of Galilee.)

“From that time” (v. 17) marks a milestone: the launch of Jesus’ public ministry. Jesus proclaims: turn back to godly ways, to making God part of your way of thinking, for the completion of God’s plan for all created beings is close! Vv. 18-22 tell of the calling of the first four disciples. (We know “Simon” as “Peter”.) Jesus the teacher invites them to follow him, speaking in their terms (“fish for people”, v. 19) and fulfils Jeremiah 16:16; there the LORD is “sending for many fishermen” to Israel. They give up their trade and “immediately” (v. 20) begin a radically different way of life. Jesus expects, and receives, prompt obedience. He proclaims the “good news” (v. 23) in both word and deed (healing). His ministry is to Jews, but people from “Syria” (v. 24), “the Decapolis” (v. 25, Hellenistic towns) and “beyond the Jordan” also come to him to hear his message.

This Week

SUNDAY, 22 January, 2023
The Third Sunday after Epiphany
10am Sung Eucharist

THURSDAY, 26 January
Public holiday, parish office closed

Sunday, 29 January **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

10am Sung Eucharist

First Reading: Micah 6.1-8, Molly Bull
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.18-31, James Griffith
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5.1-12
Intercessor: Jenny Smith
Preacher: The Revd Lydia Thangadurai
Celebrant: The Revd Dr Peter French

No morning tea today.



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

Parish Office 9826 1434
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens Mrs Amanda Bagot,
Mr Anthony Mannering

Parish Council
Mr Keith Beecher,
Mr Dougal Colhoun, Mr Craig Cooper,
Ms Diana Dunlop, Dr Jessica Hall,
Mr Michael Kirwan, Mr Adriaan Den Dulk,
Mr Harrison Young

Vicar The Revd Dr Peter French
vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Assistant Priest
The Revd Dr Wendy Crouch
assistantpriest@saintjohnstoorak.org

Assistant Curate
The Revd Lydia Thangadurai
curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

Director of Music and Organist
Mr Christopher Cook
acccook2001@yahoo.com.au

Parish Administrator and Child Safe Compliance Mrs Sally Robertson
enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Child Safe Officer Mrs Vivienne Brown

Sunday School Teachers Mr Clive Wright,
Ms Jane Anderson, Ms Shierly &
Miss Jo Patterson

Archivist Professor Geoff Quail OAM
geoffrey.quail@monash.edu